

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th August 1880.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi" ... ..	Calcutta	2,100	Ashar 1287 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	175	
Fortnightly.				
3	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong	600	15th August 1880.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	31	
Weekly.				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	16th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	20th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	671	17th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	2,000	17th ditto.
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān	296	
11	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	22nd ditto.
12	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	20th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..	Dacca	300	18th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
15	"Howrah Hitakari" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah	400	18th ditto.
16	"Medini" ... ..	Midnapore	250	
17	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	20th ditto.
18	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	23rd ditto.
19	"Navavibhakar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	19th ditto.
20	"Pratikar" ... ..	Berhampore	275	
21	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	22nd ditto.
22	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	16th ditto.
23	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	16th ditto.
24	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	
25	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	350	16th ditto.
26	"Som Prakāsh" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
27	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Ditto	4,000	16th ditto.
28	"Shārad Kaumudī" ... ..	Bhowanipore	300	
29	"Srihatta Prakāsh" ... ..	Sylhet	440	16th ditto.
30	"Tripurā Vartāvaha" ... ..	Commillah	.....	
Tri-weekly.				
31	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
Daily.				
32	"Samvād Prabhakar" ... ..	Ditto	700	20th to 24th August 1880.
33	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	21st to 26th ditto.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	14th and 23rd to 25th August 1880.
35	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	23rd to 26th August 1880.
36	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	24th to 26th ditto.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
Weekly.				
37	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	365	21st August 1880.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
38	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	500	19th ditto.
39	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	19th and 26th August 1880.
40	"Jagat Mitra" ... ..	Ditto	157	23rd ditto.
41	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	200	
42	"Uchit Baktā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	21st ditto.
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
43	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	20th ditto.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
44	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār" ... ..	Ditto	.....	22nd ditto.



## POLITICAL.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,  
August 15th, 1890.

The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 15th August, remarks that the people of India, who expected much from the Liberal party, are gradually finding reason to be disappointed.

The speeches made by the Liberal leaders while in Opposition on the subject of the Press Act, the Arms Act, the license-tax, the cotton-duties, and the Afghan war excited high hopes in the hearts of the natives of this country, who naturally therefore welcomed their return to power. The new ministry are, however, betraying an unwillingness to fulfil their oft-repeated promises. Their pompous denunciations of the acts of the Tory cabinet are now seen to have solely proceeded from their desire to get into office. By their unwillingness to at once repeal the Press Act, Lord Hartington and the new Viceroy have laid the Liberals open to the charge of inconsistency and a mere selfish devotion to the interests of their party.

SAHACHAR,  
August 16th, 1890.

2. The *Sahachar*, of the 16th August, contains a long article headed "The policy of the Liberal Government." The observations made by the writer are similar to those noticed in paragraph 1 of this report and paragraph 2 of our report of the 14th August. The article is thus concluded:—By ignoring the faults of their predecessors in office, the present Liberal Government are but injuring their own interests. Lord Ripon is not a statesman of a very high order, nor was he willing to accept the post of Governor-General of India. Still Mr. Gladstone conferred on him the appointment, and thus quite gratuitously offended the religious prejudices of the Nonconformists, the chief adherents of the Liberal party. Irish affairs are causing much trouble. For many reasons the Liberal party is disunited. So that, unless it proceeds in its work with caution, the Liberal Government will soon cease to exist and a dissolution of Parliament become inevitable.

India and the Liberals.

SAHACHAR.

3. The same paper remarks in another editorial that not one of the objects for which the present war with Afghanistan was brought about has been attained.

The results of the Afghan war.

The Afghans have not certainly learned to fear and respect the British Government, nor have they been impressed with a sense of their guilt in having caused the massacre of the British Envoy. It is to be doubted whether the Government which has been now set up in Afghanistan will prove stronger or more friendly than that of Shere Ali. India has not benefited by the war. The British frontier has indeed been extended, but fear of Russia has not been removed by this measure. The writer advocates the policy of retirement from Afghanistan and of return to the old frontier. The whole article is a free translation of an editorial which appeared in a recent issue of the *Statesman*.

SAHACHAR.

4. *Nepál Gházi* thus writes to the same paper:—General Stewart left Cabul after making Abdur Rahman Amir.

The Afghan war.

He has done well. The General is so careful a person that it matters little whether he is at Cabul or Simla. There is one word to be said on this matter. General Roberts first said he would dismantle all the works in the former city, and then declared that of the Bala Hissar not one stone should be left upon another. Afterwards, during the siege of Cabul by Muhammad Jan, General Roberts erected new fortifications on all sides, which have been now given away to Abdur Rahman. But what money has been spent on all these works? This is how our money goes.



General Roberts is advancing. Would to God Ayub retreated from Candahar, then would the troops be able to come back to India and the waste of public money be stopped. The fighting has been no better than it could have been, and Russia has hidden its head in the hole for fear. They destroyed Shere Ali and killed numbers of men all for nothing. Let Candahar and the Khyber be given up and things restored to their old footing. There has been enough of prestige gained.

Well, I thought the reason why officers were furnished with horses was that they should be able to march at the head of the soldiers to the attack of an enemy. The other day, however, after the defeat of General Burrows, it was his officers who first brought the news of the reverse to Candahar. It would then seem they had been furnished with horses that they might thus run away before all others. This indeed is the true explanation. But where are the troops? Who knows where?

Will Abdur Rahman be able to continue as Amir? I do not believe this to be possible. As soon as our troops reach Peshawar, the Cabulis will pounce upon him and kill him. They want Yakub Khan. If Yakub had not been foolish enough to place himself in the power of General Roberts, he would never have been so miserable. Lord Lytton made a mistake. Somebody must be made a victim, and who should be the victim but Yakub Khan, who was brought a captive to India? Thus was he accosted: "Scoundrel! you know everything." He denied, but who would hear him? He must be made a captive, otherwise Lord Lytton's prestige would be nowhere.

Will the new Viceroy do anything for the country? Will he cast a favourable look upon us, or, like his predecessor, busy himself with prestige? Lord Lytton selected Cabul to acquire prestige, but he caught a Tartar. Will Lord Ripon select Burma for a similar purpose?

5. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 16th August, thus concludes an article:—We have indeed gained (?) much by the prosecution of the Afghan war. There

The results of the Afghan war.

were two distinct objects for which this war was entered upon, namely, (1) the stationing of a British Resident in Cabul, and (2) the adoption of such measures as might lead to the exclusion of Russians from that country. To attain these objects we have expended millions upon millions during the last three years; thousands of our troops have died premature deaths; we have been guilty of invading foreign territory; and have been indirectly the cause of the death of the rightful Amir. We have brought fearful anarchy into Afganistan and hanged them who fought for their country. We have destroyed hundreds of Afghan villages, and made thousands widows and orphans in Afghanistan. Yet so inscrutable are the ways of Providence that we are about to return to India without gaining one of the objects for which we have done so much wrong. Not to speak of stationing a British Resident in Cabul, we do not now venture to keep even a native Envoy there. We have facilitated to the best of our power the admission of Russians into Afghanistan. The existence of troubles in that country must afford them an opportunity for interference in its affairs, and thus establishing their ascendancy. Abdur Rahman again has long been their pensioner. We hope the lesson which the British have now learnt will never be lost upon them.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
August 16th, 1880.

6. The following is the substance of an article in the *Srihatta Prakash*, of the 16th August:—India has long laboured under political grievances. Her con-

Political grievances of India.

dition has remained the same under the successive Governments of the Hindu, Mahomedan, and the British, with this difference only that, whereas under the Hindu and Mahomedan sovereigns the want of political rights was less acutely felt, and there was considerable room for self-government,

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,  
August 16th, 1880.



at the present time, when Western learning and civilization have opened the eyes of the people to their true condition, they show a burning desire to be freed from political disabilities. The different associations of the country are now loudly demanding the removal of political grievances. To the intensely loyal people of India the idea of achieving political freedom by means of rebellion is one which would never commend itself. There are constitutional means available. There are at least three measures which might be adopted with advantage at the present time. These are (1) the introduction of the principle of self-government into India; (2) the keeping of Indian delegates in England; and (3) the adoption of measures for directing the attention of the English public to the wants and grievances of the natives of this country. The first is neither easy nor practicable. The authorities are opposed to the proposal. The natives possess indeed some voice in the Municipal Corporations, the Road Cess, School, and Hospital Committees, in the punchayets, arbitration courts, and the Court of Wards, but the principle which obtains in these institutions could never form the basis of any scheme of self-government. The elevation of natives to important and responsible posts in the public service might be attended with some measure of success, but this is not seen in practice. Their highest ambition in this respect is confined to a Deputy Magistrateship, and the lowest to a peonship. Babu Brajendra Kumar Seal is almost a solitary instance of a native being made an additional Judge; but he is so only in name. The second means which might be resorted to, namely, the permanent retention of Indian delegates in England, is equally impracticable. Both on account of the expense which the attempt to carry out such an idea into effect must necessarily involve and the opposition which a native delegate must meet with at the hands of political parties, and occasionally from the Home Government itself, an insuperable difficulty would be found in getting him returned to Parliament by the votes of any English constituency. Nor does the third expedient appear more likely to be successful. The British public interests itself in the affairs of India only by fits and starts and on occasions of grave emergency. At the present moment, indeed, India is receiving some attention on account of the Afghan war, but who knows that the old indifference will not return as soon as this war is brought to a termination? The outlook is most gloomy. If ever there comes a political regeneration to the people of this country, it will only come as the result of their own efforts and not those of England.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
August 23rd, 1880.

7. As a matter of fact, remarks the *Navavibhakar*, of the 23rd August, the people living in the native States of India are better off than those who acknowledge the sway of the British Government. The former are less subject to famines. It behoves Government to institute enquiries into this matter. The systems of administration which obtain respectively in British and native India differ in many respects, some of which may here be referred to. The Government levies the same rate of revenue for all arable land, while in the States of native princes there are different rates prevalent. Land whose productive power has diminished is assessed at a lower rate. Lands which afford pasturage to the cattle are rent-free in native States, a thing which cannot be said of the same class of land in British territory. Government levies an irrigation cess even from those who do not use canal water for fear of *reh*. The people in the native States are not subjected to so many local taxes as those who live under the British Government. Under the latter, remissions of land revenue are seldom granted. Government does not, as a rule, tolerate the growth of arrears of revenue. The people under British rule are being ruined by the expenses of litigation. They are not allowed to hold any



high offices in the public service, which are filled by highly-paid Europeans. The substitution of native for European officers might lead to greater economy and efficiency in administration. What Government should do in this country is to revive the native system of administration after having reformed its abuses.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

8. The *Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 14th August, refers to the inconvenience and hardship occasioned to which the passengers using the ferry between Serampore and Barrackpore are subjected owing to the present enhanced rate of toll, and the miserable condition of the ferry-boat as well as of the landing-place on the Barrackpore side. It is to be regretted that the authorities have not yet attended to their complaints in this respect. The attention of the sub-divisional officer of Serampore is directed to the matter.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
August 14th, 1880.

9. The *Purva Pratidhwani* says that Baboo Padmalochan Dás, Munsif of Sitákund, has begun to accept presents from the landlords living under his jurisdiction, and that this has made the tenants afraid of suing them in the courts. The Munsif has further devised a new means of raising money from suitors and witnesses alike. He is asking for contributions on behalf of a relative of his, a student of the Medical College, who has come with him to this place. The latter is not in the service of Government. Baboo Padmalochan's name is being, moreover, mentioned disapprovingly in connection with his work and attendance in office. He was transferred from Assam on account of bad reports which had been made concerning him.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI.  
August 16th, 1880.

10. The following is a translation of an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 16th August, purporting to be the "Report of Sir Ashley Eden on the Calcutta Municipality":—Had Lord Lytton, who was under my influence, continued to this moment Governor-General, I would have at once proposed the abolition of the elective system which obtains in the Calcutta Municipality. For really it is more than I can bear. I could bear it somehow so long as Babu Surendranath and Dr. K. M. Banerji only were Commissioners, but now Shishir Kumar Ghosh also has a seat on the Municipal Board. Shishir Kumar is the editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, the paper whose only business it would seem is to throw ridicule upon me and other officers of Government. The man who edits such a paper ought to be banished from the country, but, instead of this, he has been made a Commissioner of the Calcutta Municipality. What gross injustice! If there is such injustice under the British Government, where should we then expect to see justice? All the injury that has been done to us has been done by the schools and colleges in this country. Were it not for them, the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká* could not learn English; and if he had not learnt that language, I would have finished him by means of the Press Act. It was not given me to see any of my wishes fulfilled. I wrote to the Home Government praising Lord Lytton, and thought this would make him more attached to me than ever. The result also justified my expectations. Everything became as I had wished, when an unexpected calamity occurred. I have long desired to stop the publication of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*. The desire first arose when the agitation was going on regarding Mulhar Rao Guicowar of Baroda. It was then that I resolved to stop the publication of that journal as soon as I should get an opportunity. Providence gave me the opportunity, and arrangements were complete. We managed the work within 12 hours, but our 12 hours' work was

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
August 16th, 1880.

Sir Ashley Eden on the Calcutta Municipality.



spoilt by the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká* in two hours. He is a dangerous fellow, and the system under which such a person has been able to get admission into the Calcutta Municipality should be abolished without delay. I have not yet made the acquaintance of Lord Ripon, and it yet remains to be seen whether he will come under my influence. But if he does, it will be my chief object to obtain the abolition of the elective system.

This is not the only injury that has been caused by the elective system. I cannot recount all the evils it has been the source of. Why, Sir Stuart Hogg, so overbearing an officer, was obliged for fear of it to retire from this country. Mr. Metcalfe, a leading personage, was sent about his business through the united opposition of a few Commissioners. The Chairman now does not possess the authority which formerly any common European possessed in the Municipality. At one time I myself did work similar to that which is now being done by Mr. Metcalfe, and it is quite possible that he may some day come to do the work which I am now doing. He is such an important personage, and yet was harried by the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality, headed by Dr. K. M. Banerji. Mr. Souttar, though a leading civilian, was not allowed to write the Administration Report. The Commissioners made alterations in his draft—Commissioners, that is, Bengalis who lie prostrate at our feet—men whom Mr. Souttar as a Magistrate might at his pleasure sentence to a month's imprisonment.

It seems to be a law of nature that while the poor and weak bear the burden of taxation the wealthy enjoy luxuries. I am the sovereign of Bengal. Indeed, how many comforts do I possess! The tenantry of Bengal might die from starvation and disease, but that would not interfere with my pleasures. There was fearful famine in Madras and Bombay, but that did not interfere with the festivities of the Delhi Durbar. The English officials spend their days in pleasures, but it is the poor people of Bengal who pay the license-tax. This indeed is the law of nature. Formerly, the principle was followed in the Calcutta Municipality also. The poor native inhabitants paid the rates, which went to pay for the sanitary arrangements and ornamentation of the European quarters of the town. All this has now become impossible. The Commissioners now attend equally to the requirements of the native and European quarters.

What has most offended me is this. I am the Lieutenant-Governor and have to provide for many of my followers. I have therefore increased the number of Deputy and Sub-deputy Magistrateships and other posts to which many of them have been appointed. The number of *protégés*, however, is gradually increasing, and it has become difficult for me to provide them with suitable appointments. There are many posts under the Calcutta Municipality, which, had they been at my disposal, would have been of great use to me. As it is, I do not possess authority to appoint even a petty clerk to the Municipality. I was extremely opposed to the appointment of Mr. Wyman as Secretary, and took care also to express my disapprobation, still the Commissioners gave him the appointment.

11. The same paper notices a fresh case of outrage committed on a Parsee female travelling on one of the Indian railways by a European guard. The matter being brought to the notice of the Railway authorities, the offender has been suspended from his post. It is to be regretted that these cases, which occur pretty frequently, seldom receive due attention from Government. In England such an occurrence would be hotly discussed in Parliament, but the Government of India is so despotic and given to ease that it manifests perfect indifference.



## 12. Before commenting on the draft Bill prepared by the Rent Com-

The draft Bill of the Bengal Rent Commission.

mission, the *Bardwán Sanjivani*, of the 17th August, refers to the defects of the existing

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
August 17th, 1890.

rent law and says:—The present law is defective on these points—(1) disputes between landlords and tenants regarding *māl* and *lakhiraj* lands; (2) enhancement of rents; (3) occupancy rights and the privileges of the tenant in connection therewith; (4) registration of tenures in the books of the talukdars; (5) instalments in which rent is to be paid; (6) rent-receipts and extent of tenures; and (7) the difficulty of collecting rents in estates owned by cosharers. Now, as regards the first point, the draft Bill is perfectly silent. It appears from a perusal of the report of the Commission that the subject had been brought to its notice, but as there is a separate law dealing with this matter, the members did not see the necessity of laying down any rules in the draft Bill. But, it may be asked, is there any provision in that law for relieving suitors of the difficulty they now experience in proving their cases? The provision that does exist increases rather than decreases their difficulties. How many again are found able, under the present law, to successfully overcome that difficulty? It is frequently the case that the party on whom lies the burden of proof is the one which ultimately has to yield. Another remark to be made is that when a talukdar sues for enhancement of rent, it is not unusual to find the tenant specifying all the best lands as being *lakhiraj*. Under these circumstances, even if the whole tenure be a rent-paying one, it not unfrequently happens that it is proved and declared rent-free. Unless this question is first disposed of, it will be in a manner impossible to conduct suits for enhancement of rent. The Legislature therefore should make some provision whereby all attempts to make out *māl* as *lakhiraj* and *vice versa* might be rendered impossible. In our opinion, in those suits in which the defendant while acknowledging the fact of his tenancy yet objects on the ground that some lands in his tenure are *lakhiraj*, the burden of proof should, in the first instance, be made to rest on him, and if he succeeds in a manner in proving his contention, the talukdar should then be called upon to refute him. In other cases, however, in which the defendant denies the fact of his tenancy and claims that the land in dispute is rent-free, the zemindar should be required to prove that the former is really his tenant; and if he succeeds in doing this, the Court should then proceed to call upon the defendant to prove the fact of *lakhiraj*, and the plaintiff to refute him. Some such provision, advantageous to both parties, has become necessary. As it is, in cases where the tenant contends that only a part of his tenure is rent-paying while the rest is rent-free, it is the zemindar who has to establish the fact that the whole is rent-paying; and this, in a manner, is impossible for him to do. The defendant, however, does not labour under any such disadvantages. He is well-acquainted with the land which is in his possession; and of the *lakhiraj* lands he generally possesses some documents which he can produce and with little effort establish his contention. The zemindar does not find much difficulty in proving the fact of tenancy where the defendant denies it altogether. The former can show that the latter has been regularly paying him rents, or make use of other evidence. It is not merely in suits for the enhancement of rents that the dispute regarding *māl* and *lakhiraj* crops up; there are many other rent-cases with which it is closely connected. Whenever any auction-purchaser comes to take possession of his property, the debtor-defendant points to certain portion of the land sold as being *lakhiraj*. The former of course is put to great embarrassment, and finds it to his interest to obtain the possession in the best manner he can, as otherwise it becomes extremely difficult for him to prove that the land in question



is *mâl*. The subject should receive the careful consideration of the Legislature.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
August 17th, 1890.

13. The same paper refers to the overbearing disposition of Mr. Philips, the Joint-Magistrate of Burdwan, who often treats the pleaders of his court with scant courtesy. They are in consequence extremely dissatisfied with him. Mr. Philips recently fined Mr. Gasper, a barrister, who appeared before him in a case. The matter is under the consideration of the higher authorities.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

14. A correspondent of the same paper draws the attention of the authorities to the doings of an opium-vendor of Kaithi, who adulterates the drug by mixing with it many deleterious substances. He is further in the habit of using short weights.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
August 17th, 1890.

15. After quoting the opinions of Sir Barnes Peacock, Mr. Justice Trevor, and the present Chief Justice of Bengal, to the effect that the conferring of occupancy rights on a certain class of tenants has been a direct breach of the Permanent Settlement made by Lord Cornwallis with the zemindars, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 17th August, proceeds to make the following observations:—The provisions which the Rent Commissioners have made in the draft Bill will have the effect of curtailing still more the already curtailed rights of the landlords. Any change in the legislative enactments which is calculated to foster the rights of one class of the community at the expense of another should be avoided as far as possible. The history of rent legislation in Bengal for the last 22 years shews extensive changes, and if the relations between landlords and tenants for the next 22 years continue to change with the same result as during the last period, the former will have left but a nominal authority, and be reduced to a position lower than that of a village putwari. We of course admit that, by Regulation I of 1793, Government clearly reserved to itself the power of enacting in future laws for the amelioration of the state of the tenantry and perservation of their rights, and do not deny that tenant right in Bengal has long been trampled under the foot by the wealthy. But did not the existing law provide a suitable remedy? And were not the relations between landlords and tenants gradually improving with the general progress of the country? Was not the condition of the Bengal tenantry becoming gradually one of increasing prosperity? And has it really become necessary for Government, so soon after the passing of Act VIII of 1869, to again undertake legislation on the subject of landlord and tenant? Still we should not have had much reason or room for cavil if the present draft Bill with its provisions so antagonistic to the rights of the landlords had been really calculated to prove beneficial to the tenant.

ARYA DARPAN,  
August 20th, 1890.

16. The *Arya Darpan* regrets to find that the new ministry and Lord Ripon are not willing to repeal the Press Act. The people of India, who formed high expectations from the speeches of the Liberal leaders while in Opposition, are now greatly disappointed. The local authorities, however, are giving strong support to the Press Act. Sir Ashley Eden takes every opportunity of expressing his approbation of it. In his resolution on the last Administration Report of the Presidency Division, he remarks that last year the agitation regarding the Press Act was only confined to those who were affected by its provisions, and that the masses did not in the least concern themselves with the measure. This observation is exceedingly unfair. It is not proper to make any reference to the masses in the course of any discussion on the Press Act. They never trouble themselves about any political matters, and



indeed possess but little leisure for this purpose. That opposition should be made by the educated natives is perfectly reasonable. It is they who constitute the mouthpiece of the people, and are by their position and intelligence fitted to discuss questions of public importance. In no country is it given to the masses to guide public opinion. It is the intelligent few to whom this task is allotted. What is worthy of remark, and not a little amusing to find, is that while the enactment of the Press law was justified on the ground that it was necessary to prevent the spread of sedition among the masses—an evil which, it was alleged, was being produced by the writings of the native press—Sir Ashley Eden now argues in favour of the retention of the measure by saying that the masses are not affected by its provisions and have not protested against it. They are not, however, as a matter of fact, even aware of its existence.

17. In the course of an article the *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 22nd August, makes observations on the draft Bill of the Bengal Rent Law Commission, which are similar to those noticed in paragraph 15.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
August 22nd, 1880.

18. The *Sādhārānī*, of the 22nd August, writes two articles on the settlement operations in Midnapore and the litigation in which Government is now engaged with the aggrieved tenants. The work of settlement was performed in a most unsatisfactory manner, and grave injustice has been done to the ryots. Their rents have been enhanced to the extent of 63 per cent. on the basis of the reports of the settlement officers; and now when both parties, Government and the ryots, are in the court, the former is using all the resources at its command to win a victory. The example is not in the least edifying.

SADHARANI,  
August 22nd, 1880.

19. The *Navavibhākar*, of the 23rd August, disapproves of the tone of Sir Ashley Eden's remarks regarding Mr. O'Donnell in his reply to the address of the indigo-planters of Behar. In fact, His Honor clearly seemed to have lost his temper and indulged in intemperate expression. This was not certainly becoming on the part of such an experienced and highly-placed official as Sir Ashley is. The people might carry away from his speech an impression that in his old age Sir Ashley has become unduly partial to the indigo-planters. Be that as it may, Government must be held responsible for the deplorable condition of the tenantry in Behar, which is in a great measure due to the oppression of the planters.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
August 23rd, 1880.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 28th August 1880.



